The present Amendment cancels claims 1-12 and adds new claims 13-21. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 13-21.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Handa (U.S. Patent No. 7,250,964) in view of Hashimoto (U.S. Application Publication No. 2003/0091327). As indicated above, claims 1-12 were canceled. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claims 1-12 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that the features recited in claims 1-12 are taught or suggested by Handa or Hashimoto. The cancellation of claims 1-12 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application. Applicants hereby reserve their right to pursue the subject matter as set forth in claims 1-12 in a continuing application.

As indicated above, the present Amendment adds new claims 13-21. New claims 13-21 are directed to an image storage and delivery method for recording and reproducing image data from a web camera.

According to the present invention the method including a normal recording step wherein an image received by the web camera is recorded as first image data with a first image quality, when an alarm occurs performing: a requesting step wherein delivery of second image data representative of the image received by the web camera before the alarm occurred is requested from the web camera, and an alarm recording step wherein the second image data from the web camera is recorded with a second image quality without

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stopping the normal recording step, whereby the second image data and part of the first image data are representative of the image at the same time, and a reproduction step wherein, during reproduction of data representative of the image at said same time, the second image data, having a higher image quality than the first image data, is preferentially reproduced when an instruction for seamless playback is received from a user.

The above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other. Particularly, the above described features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims are not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Handa or Hashimoto whether said references are taken individually or in combination with each other.

Handa teaches a data transmitting apparatus having a sensor, wherein when an alarm is generated from the sensor, a post-alarm recording is started, and a plurality of still image files are written to an alarm storage area of an SDRAM by a memory control circuit. In Handa the still image files within the alarm storage area are transmitted to an image accumulating server through an NIC during a period from occurrence of the alarm to becoming full of the alarm storage area. Furthermore, still image files created in a normal recording after the post-alarm recording are intermittently transmitted to the image accumulating server at an arbitrary file transmission cycle. The still image files which have not been transmitted yet out of the still image files in the alarm storage area are transmitted to the image accumulating server at intervals of the file transmission.

Hashimoto teaches Processing for successively writing video data for normal recording into a normal recording area is performed, and video data for alarm recording is repeatedly overwritten on a predetermined area in an alarm recording area. The video data for alarm recording after generating an alarm signal is written into the alarm recording area. The video data for normal recording after stopping the alarm signal is written from a portion of the normal recording area where the video data for normal recording corresponding to the video data for alarm recording recorded on the predetermined area is recorded.

However, the above described features of Handa and Hashimoto do not teach or suggest the above described features of the present invention.

Particularly both Handa and Hashimoto do not teach or suggest that when an alarm occurs the following steps are performed: a requesting step wherein delivery of second image data representative of the image received by the web camera before the alarm occurred is requested from the web camera, and an alarm recording step wherein the second image data from the web camera is recorded with a second image quality without stopping the normal recording step, whereby the second image data and part of the first image data are representative of the image at the same time as in the present invention.

Further, both Handa and Hashimoto do not teach or suggest a reproduction step wherein, during reproduction of data representative of the image at said same time, the second image data, having a higher image quality than the first image data is preferentially reproduced when an

instruction for seamless playback is received from a user as in the present invention.

Therefore, since each of Handa and Hashimoto fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims, taking Handa and Hashimoto individually or in combination with each other does not render obvious the claimed invention.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 4-7.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of BRUNDIDGE & STANGER, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-4888 (ASA-5444).

Respectfully submitted,

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